

VZCZCXYZ0014
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHNY #0159 0691344
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 101344Z MAR 09
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7409
INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE 0627
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE 0079
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE 2524
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 1538
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE 1785
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE 3074
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 1000
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE 0552
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE 1343
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE 4415

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 000159

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/11/2019
TAGS: [EG](#) [KPAL](#) [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [NO](#)
SUBJECT: NORWAY RELUCTANT TO APPROVE GAZA SMUGGLING
INTERDICTION PROGRAM OF ACTION

REF: STATE 20406

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Kevin M. Johnson
for reasons 1.4 b and d

11. (C) The GON has not yet decided if they can accept the program of action or even if they will attend the March 13 London meeting. The GON's stated concern is the need under Norwegian law for a legal basis for the actions outlined in the program of action. This may be a uniquely Norwegian concern due to the fact that Norway does not maintain a list of terrorist organizations but instead relies on UN resolutions for the necessary legal underpinnings. The MFA is reviewing UN resolutions (particularly UNSCR 1860) to see if they will suffice and will present its recommendation to FM Stoere March 10, after a video meeting between legal experts from participating countries.

12. (C) Comment: Embassy Oslo believes that the stated concerns are real but only a small part of the dilemma that the Gaza interdiction effort presents for the GON. Reluctant to be left out of any significant Middle Eastern initiative but at the same time not willing to accept the isolation of Hamas, the GON is torn. Broadly speaking, the GON is clearly concerned that joining the interdiction effort would harm their cooperation and ties with Hamas. These ties are very important to the GON (and to FM Stoere himself) and their (his) desire to serve as a peace negotiator. The GON would also strongly prefer to be involved in the humanitarian aspects and not a military interdiction effort. Whether or not Norway participates in the London meeting will be determined by the FM himself in the next few days. We consider it likely that Norway attends the conference but considerably more in question whether they will accept the program of action. End Comment.
WHITNEY